

221015US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
ATSUSHI ITO ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: 10/070,441 :  
FILED: March 19, 2002 :  
FOR: CERAMIC HEATER FOR A :  
SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCING/ :  
EXAMINING DEVICE :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 3 to read as follows:<sup>1</sup>

3. (Amended) The ceramic heater for a semiconductor producing/examining device according to claim 1,

wherein a resistance value scattering in said resistance heating element to the average resistance value of said resistance heating element is 5% or less.

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<sup>1</sup>A marked-up copy of the amendment is attached hereto.

Please add new Claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The ceramic heater for a semiconductor producing/examining device according to claim 2,

wherein a resistance value scattering in said resistance heating element to the average resistance value of said resistance heating element is 5% or less.

#### REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment cancels the multiple dependency in Claim 3 and sets forth new dependent Claim 4 to recite subject matter of the cancelled multiple dependency.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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